for captive consumption only, to the Indian Companies including Public Sector Companies on the basis of competitive bidding.

Justification for frequent increase in coal prices

888. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the justifications for frequent price increase of coal, particularly after partial deregulation of coal prices;

(b) the prices of different grades of coking and non-coking coals since 1993-94, the average annual costs of production thereof since 1993-94, separately, in open cast and underground mines and the average percentage increase in the prices from each date of price increase;

(c) whether in coal mining, cost has no or little relation to the grade of coal mined; and

(d) if so, the manner in which bulk of price increases are loaded onto the consumers of superior grades of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Before partial deregulation, the coal prices were last revised on 17.6.1994 based on November, 1993 indices. In the intervening period from 17.06.1994 to 31.03.1996 inflation was to the tune of 29% over November, 1993 indices. Accordingly Coal India Ltd. (CIL) increased the prices of deregulated grades of coal in two phases i.e. on 01.04.1996 by 19% and 20.10.1996 by 10% over the 1994 prices.

(b) to (d) The average prices of all grades of coal including the regulated grades produced from CIL Mines since 1993-94 and the average percentage increases from that year the given below:—

Year	Average price of CIL Coal (Rs. per tonne)	% age increase
1993-94 (19.06.93)	381.00	—
1994-95 (17.06.94)	401.00	5.25%
01.04.96	469.02	16.96%
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

The cost of coal production from CIL Mines is compiled under two categories:

(a) Underground Mines

(b) Opencast Mines

The average annual cost of production of underground and opencast mines of CIL for the year 1993-94 to 1995-96 are given below:

(Figs in Rs./tonnes)

Year	UG	OC	Total
1993-94	718.17	244.31	364.35
1994-95	781.80	252.89	380.45
1995-96	984.96	273.32	412.66

Cost of production has little relation to the grades of coal produced. If the 1997 escalation formula of Baureau of Industrial Costs and Prices is applied, the impact of increase in input prices over the price prevailing on 17.06.1994 in all grades of CIL coal work out to 29% and the prices of all grades of CIL coal should have been enhanced by the same percentage. However, CIL could enhance only the prices of superior grades of coal which were deregulated with effect from 01.04.1996.

Time bound clearance of coal mining projects

889. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move to completely privatise coal mining by removing the existing conditions of captive mining or otherwise;

(b) if so, in what manner competitive bidding would be conducive for user industries in particular;

(c) whether any assessment/introspection has been done in this regard;

(d) if so, the results thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether cumbersome procedure for site/environmental clearances are causing delays in the implementation of captive coal mining projects; and

(f) if so, the action taken to simplify the procedure for time bound clearances [illegible]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government have, subject to legislative changes, decided to offer coal blocks, without the restriction on coal mining for captive consumption only, to the Indian Companies including Public Sector Companies on the basis of competitive bidding. The successful bidder will be free to sell coal in the open market and will be allowed to charge any price negotiated between him and the consumer. The basic objectives of the above mentioned decision of the Government are to augment investment in coal mining availability of coal and to improve its efficiency. It is expected that such a measure will increase competition and thereby lead to greater satisfaction to user industries.

(c) and (d) The assessment of the coal and lignite reserve to be allowed for private sector development will be done after the rules are framed.

(e) and (f) In a high level Committee meeting held on 15.11.1996 the matter of creation of land banks in States where large tracts of wasteland are available, was considered. It was concluded in the meeting that in view of the definite advantages of taking up compensatory afforestation in degraded forest land as compared to wasteland, the concept of a land bank in selected States to meet the requirements of the Central Projects may be dovetailed to a pool of such forest land. The concept of land bank once it comes into being would go a long way in easing the problem of taking up compensatory afforestation and held expeditious issuance of forestry clearance for coal projects.

अमरीका और आस्ट्रेलिया में कोयला उत्पादन की कम लागत

890. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में कोयले की उत्पादन लागत अमरीका और आस्ट्रेलिया की तुलना में अधिक है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में तथ्य क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने उन देशों में कोयले की उत्पादन लागत कम होने के कारणों का भी पता लगाया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और इस संबंध में स्थिति में सुधार लाने हेतु सरकार द्वारा कौन-कौन से कदम उठाए गए हैं?

कोयला मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कांति सिंह): (क) तथा (ख) अमेरिका में कोयले का उत्पादन किए जाने संबंधी लागत के विश्वसनीय आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं है। वर्ष 1994 में कोल इंडिया लि. द्वारा अन्य देशों में कोयले की उत्पादन की लागत के संबंध में प्राप्त अद्यतन सूचना नीचे दी गई है:

देश	प्रति टन उत्पादन लागत	
	देश की मुद्रा में	भारतीय मुद्रा में
जर्मनी (रूअर कोले) डच मार्क	250-300	5425-6510
युनाइटेड किंगडम पौण्ड (ब्रिटिश कोयला)	34-40	2077-2374
फ्रांस (लॉरिन कोलफील्ड) फ्रैं. फ्रैंक	600-700	3860-4503
आस्ट्रेलिया डालर	20-35	563-984

(ग) तथा (घ) इस संबंध में प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता है, चूंकि वर्ष 1995-96 में भारत में कोयले की एक प्रति टन उत्पादन लागत 413 रुपए थी, जो कि उपर्युक्त विवरण में दी गई अन्य देशों की वर्ष 1994 की उत्पादन लागत से भी कम है।

Bill on Coal Policy

891. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce a Bill on Coal Policy in the current session of Parliament;